

REMARKS

Applicants thank the Examiner for the thorough consideration given the present application. Claims 4-20 are presently pending. Claims 1-3 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 4-20 are new, with claims 4 and 20 being independent claims.

Specification Objections

The Abstract of the Specification is objected to as being in improper format. Applicants hereby amend the Abstract in accordance with the Examiner's suggestion. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of this objection is respectfully requested

Claim Rejections – 102

Claims 1 – 3 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by European Patent 1191814 to Kaulberg ("Kaulberg"). Claims 1 – 3 are cancelled, rendering this rejection moot. Applicants instead traverse this rejection as it applies to independent claims 4 and 20 and all claims depending therefrom.

Independent claim 4 pertains to a hearing aid with an anti feedback system for estimating an external feedback path, the hearing aid comprising, in pertinent part, "a directional processing block that ... provides, as an output signal, an addition of the DIR and OMNI signals, where the addition is performed by a fader that subjects both signals to gain factors before addition, and wherein the gain, α_{omni} , applied to the OMNI-signal has a value between 0 and 1, inclusive, and wherein the gain applied to the DIR-signal is $(1-\alpha_{\text{omni}})$, an acoustic environment detector that determines whether input signals from said microphones are directional or omni-directional, a

trigger that generates an alert signal to the anti feed back system, said alert indicating the adaptation mode for the anti feedback system based on the value of α_{omni} , and a controller that controls the trigger and the fader by generating a value for α_{omni} based on input from the acoustic environment detector.”

The anti-feedback system of claim 4 is therefore provided with input indicative of changes in the directionality system from an omnidirectional mode to a directional mode. A gain factor between 0 and 1, applied to the omnidirectional signal to provide the output of the directional block (in combination with the directional signal, which is modified by a different gain factor), is generated and also used to derive information to the anti feedback system, via the trigger, regarding an adaptation mode change. Applicants respectfully submit that such a mechanism for influencing both the output of the directional fader the responsiveness of the anti feedback system based on a calculated directional gain factor is completely missing from Kaulberg.

Applicants respectfully submit that claims 5 - 19 are allowable at least by virtue of their dependency from independent claim 4.

Applicants respectfully submit that claim 20 is allowable for at least the same reasons as set forth above with respect to independent claim 4.

At least in view of the above, Applicants respectfully submit that Kaulberg is deficient in its teaching with respect to independent claims 4 and 20 and all claims depending therefrom. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested

Conclusion

Since the remaining patents cited by the Examiner have not been utilized to reject the claims, but to merely show the state of the art, no comment need be made with respect thereto.

In view of the above amendment, applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance. Thus, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider the outstanding rejections and issue a Notice of Allowance in the present application.

However, should the Examiner believe that any outstanding matters remain in the present application, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants' representative, Naphtali Matlis (Reg. No. 61,592) at the telephone number of the undersigned in order to discuss the application and expedite prosecution.

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Respectfully submitted,

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